SOUTH VIET NAM *In struggle*

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and other South Viet Nam NFL
Missions in foreign countries

Uncle Ho, great leader of the Vietnamese people, together with General Vo Nguyen Giap receiving: Ta Thi Kieu, Tran Duong hero, and Le Chi Nguyen PLAF model combatant

editorial

TURN FOR EVER TO HIM FOR ENLIGHTENMENT, MORE STRENGTH, MORE STAMINA AND MORE CONFIDENCE

MAY 19, 1970 is the eightieth birthday of our beloved Uncle Ho. On this day, all the minds and hearts of the Southerners still heavy with an eight-month old but unabated grief are reverently and affectionately turned toward the kindred North, toward our cherished capital where He is having the sleep that knows not breaking.

*But Uncle is and will always be with us. His name has been associated with each of the most glorious pages of our history. He fanned up the flames of patriotism in each of us, led our people's August Revolution to triumph and founded the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. "**Independence and freedom are beyond price,**" He used to tell our entire people. "**We'd rather make every sacrifice than let our country fall under a foreign rule and resign ourselves to servitude.**" He steered the ship of our nation through storms and gales and the shore of glory is now in sight. Our indebtedness to Him is mountain-high and sea-deep.*

He is the quintessence of the Vietnamese nation and of Her revolutionary heroism. His soul had the purity of crystal, His thought the clarity of light, His will the strength of steel. Each words of His was and remains a torch illuminating our life and struggle. Each action of His was uniquely dictated by the interest of the people and of the revolution. Each exhortation of His helped us a step forward, each call to arms He sounded ended in a victory of our people. His teachings have taken us from success to success and have been the driving force behind the steady advance of our cause.

*Although He had not in His life time had the occasion to grace South Viet Nam with a visit, every river, every mountain, every field, every village, every town and city, every heart there is bursting with love for Him and with appreciation of His services to the nation. In this embattled land, each feat of arms bears His stamp, each hero is inspired by His thought. In the boom of the guns always resound the echoes of His proclamation of Viet Nam's independence at Ba Dinh Square: "**Viet Nam is entitled to, and in fact has won, freedom and independence to the preservation of which its**

(Continued page 8)

Nixon wants to put out the fire by pouring oil on it

AGAIN Nixon met the press. But there was nothing new in his statement. Just the same specious arguments, the same quibbles, the same protestations of faith and honeyed words. Clearly the US President wants to get out of the vast stranglehold set up around him by the American and world peoples now strongly critical of his brazen invasion of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

After masterminding the putsch against Chief of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the boss of the White House has been faced with an immense wave of protest at home and abroad. However, instead of drawing the proper lesson, he has committed another crime in invading Cambodia. This cynical act, together his dragging on the war in South Viet Nam under the "Vietnamization" label, his resumption of the bombing of populated areas in the DRVN and his stepped up 'special warfare' in Laos, constituted an intolerable challenge to the anti-war movement in the USA and the whole world. The fire naturally blazed up as Nixon poured oil on it. The fifty million Indochinese, already united in the common struggle, will further close their ranks, actuated by their firm determination to completely defeat the aggressor. Side by side with them, the world's peoples have been opposing him vigorously and resolutely. Such allies of the United States as France and Canada also disagree with him. In the US itself, the protest movement has to come to a head, attracting more social segments, more congressmen. From coast to coast the country has been in the throes of an agitation led by progressive Americans : there have been a recrudescence of meetings, demonstrations, student strikes and other actions. Students of some 400 higher-education establishments took to the streets. Scores of thousands of paraders converged on Washington. They all condemned the Nixon administration for sending combat troops to Cambodia, for widening the war all over Indochina, and for the killing of four students of the Kent University, Ohio.

Stubborn and brutal as he is, Nixon cannot help being frightened by the violent widespread out burst of the war-dissenters within and without his country. He himself admitted it before representatives of the press when he said that he did mind the American people's protests. Therefore, his hastily called press meeting at 10.000 PM on May 8 came as no surprise.

Most obviously, the press conference had been designed to find for Nixon an opportunity to mend a situation. There he resorted to his usual tricks and quibbles and round-about pronouncements in an attempt to cover up his criminal acts and placate public opinion. In a bland language he strove his best to soothe the Americans, saying that he was deeply aware of their feelings, that all that they stood for was just what he wanted, that he understood that what the students, wanted to say in their demonstrations was peace, an end to the killing and an end to the draft... Who then could possibly doubt the intelligence of the United States President ?

True, the American people have been claiming all that for quite a time. How did Nixon respond to it? By staging the Chicago trial? Was the killing of the four students of the Kent University the expression of his awareness and comprehension of the legitimate demands of the American students and people as a whole? Nixon has proved not too unclever. He has clapped his mouth with his own criminal hands.

Confident of his talent in black mailing, Nixon said that by sending ground forces into Cambodia he would attain the objectives of the American people, that he would shorten the war in Viet Nam, cut down US casualties, that this move would permit Nixon to carry on the withdrawal program, and so on and so forth.

Who believes that the operations of US invading troops in Cambodia and the anti-war parades of the Americans aim the same goal ? Nixon's purpose is the prolongation of the war, and his "Vietnamization" program, a policy to prosecute the aggressive war in South Viet Nam. By implementing it, the US chief executive is acting counter to the termination of the war, the total and unconditional pull-out of US troops from South Viet Nam and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. The so-called "Nixon doctrine" that he keeps mentioning in all his speeches is nothing else than a scheme to wage a wider war, to pit « Asians against Asians ». The application of this « doctrine » has led to the intensification of the « special war » in Laos, and to the invasion of Cambodia in the wake of the coup d'Etat against the Head of State Norodom Sihanouk. How could Nixon make people believe he wanted to "shorten" the war when he ordered massive attacks in Cambodia? How could he cut down casualties and "withdraw" US troops while dragging on the war in Viet Nam and Laos, and opening a new front in Cambodia ? His round-about explanations solely aimed at concealing his crimes which, doubtless, would not escape the light of justice. In the eyes of the world's people Nixon has revealed himself his true colours : "a neo-fascist, an international gendarme, the most wicked and dangerous enemy of the Indochinese peoples and of mankind" (Declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples).

This aggressive war of the United States means sufferings and mournings for the Indochinese peoples ; it is a disaster for the American. To prosecute and widen it is to add to these sufferings and mournings, and to aggravate this disaster. What right justifies Nixon's committing combat forces to the Kingdom of Cambodia, to mount "mop-ups" on its territory, no matter for one week or one day, one mile or one yard from its borders?

Having heaped more heinous crimes in Viet Nam and Laos, what further actrocities do the American aggressors want to perpetrate in Cambodia until recently reputed as an "oasis of peace" ? With regard to the American people, how longer will Nixon want the disaster generated by the war to go on? How far does he mean to lengthen the US casualty list ? In a bid to mislead American opinion, he boasted that the first week of the Cambodian campaign had achieved results far greater than expected. Everybody, nevertheless, knows that the prolongation and expansion of the war confronts Nixon with unprecedented difficulties in all fields. Militarily, running headlong into a new war theatre while already bogged down waist-deep in the South Viet Nam and Lao mire he has been courting still heavier setbacks. Dispatches from the front show that the operations in Cambodia are « covering with glory » and have registered "poor results" with hundreds of casualties, and about a hundred tanks bogged down. Western news agencies themselves confirm that the sending of combat troops to Cambodia is a strategic mistake, a folly and stupidity, something obvious to everyone. He who sows the wind reaps the whirlwind.

The objective of the American people is peace, liberty, the end of the war, a total and rapid withdrawal of US troops. They are resolutely struggling for this glowingly just objective. No perfidious trick, no brutal ploy on the part of Nixon can stem out the high tide of their fight.

The May 8 press meeting threw a strong light on the mendacity of the US administration. At the same time, on the real Nixon — an aggressor, a war-fomenter both obstinate and cruel. The more actively he tries to conceal his crime, the more transparent becomes his intention — the maintaining of US military occupation of Cambodia, and the continuation of devastating operations in this magnificent land of Angkor. One can thus say that with this latest press conference meeting Nixon wanted to put out the fire by feeding fuel to it.

The vigorous protest of the American and world peoples coupled with the blows dealt by Khmer patriotic armed forces led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, are answers relevant enough to Nixon's arrogant challenge. More of their blood will probably be shed on the streets of the world of peace and justice, but the youth and people of the United States will not allow Nixon to use it so as to increase the sufferings and mournings of the Indochinese peoples, to tarnish the traditional love for peace and liberty of the American nation. The youth and people of the United States will surely not shrink from any difficulty to achieve end. Together with the Indochinese and world peoples, they will certainly push up their struggle in order to tighten the extensive noose around Nixon, thereby forcing him to meet to their legitimate claims : the end of the aggressive war, immediate rapatriation of US troops, peace in Indochina. There is no doubt that the masses and justice will have the last word.

THIEN LY

APRIL 1970

a month of continued fierce attacks

APRIL witnessed powerful actions by the PLAF and people of South Viet Nam, which inflicted substantial losses upon the enemy and hit hard at his "Vietnamization" program. American and western news agencies concurred in estimating that US weekly losses in manpower early in the month were the highest since the week ending Sept. 13, 1969, and that the Saigon army had suffered the heaviest casualties since August last year. The same sources added that it was in the first days of April that the puppet forces incurred the worst setback in the past several months.

I. Adverse fremendous losses in manpower and war means.

Starting from April, the PLAF went into action everywhere in South Viet Nam. In the first twenty days, over 1,200 military targets from Quang Tri down to Ca Mau came under attack, i.e. 60 a day on an average. On the night of March 31 alone, 270 targets were struck by artillery or infantry. Top political and military organs and most of major cities were not spared either.

Many areas were turned into battlegrounds, sizeable adverse forces were wiped out, which made it possible for the people to rise up and set up revolutionary power, like in *My Tho* 2 battalions were wiped out and several others of the puppet 7th Division decimated ; in *An Giang* where 4,500 enemy men were knocked out and 3 ranger battalions depleted ; in *Tra Vinh* where 2 battalions and 6 companies, most of them belonging to the puppet 9th Division were disabled ; in the *Tay Nguyen Highlands* where 2,600 enemy casualties were reported in Kontum, Darlac and Dac Sieng and in *Binh Thuan* where 1,100 officers and men of the puppet 44th Regiment were put out of action. The *Quang Tri — Thua Thien — Hue* theatre distinguished itself with the mauling of the US 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade of the US 5th Mechanized Infantry Division which incurred not less than 1,000 killed or wounded ; so did the *Quang Nam — Da Nang* front where the US marine division *America*l was constantly under fire and the *Tay Ninh — Binh Tay* zone where the 1st Brigade of the Airmobile Cavalry Division was written off the muster roll, while 2 battalions of the 11th Armoured Regimeat were knocked out along with about 100 vehicles destroyed, and the 199th Brigade badly trounced. The general commanding this brigade and 100 or so of his men were killed.

Regulars, regionals and guerrillas pushed up the destruction of enemy power and war means. This devastating drive, already at a high peak in previous months, has been on the upgrade since the beginning of April and has registered marked successes.

In *Tay Ninh* province, the PLAF blasted out of commission 120 tanks and armored cars in one week and at *Dac Sieng*, they brought down nearly 70 planes of various types in the first twenty days. In *Qui Nhon — Cam Ranh*, they burnt 45million litres of petrol and 300 tons of ammunition of different calibers.

According to preliminary reports, in April the Liberation forces and people of South Viet Nam

Incessant attacks in the First 10 Days of May

PRESSING their advantage and keeping up their offensive posture, the South Viet Nam PLAF attacked unceasingly the enemy on all the theatre of operations since the beginning of memorable May.

The PLAF *from the night of April 30 to the early hours of May 2* assaulted the enemy again and again in the Hiep Duc district seat, *Quang Nam province*, Western reports said. At least 54 US troops were wiped out, the dispatches added. The same sources said the PLAF on May 1 hit at US and puppet troops in the Thuong Duc district town and various enemy artillery sites in the same province. For two nights running, April 30 and May 1, the PLAF also slammed big gun fire into enemy positions in many parts of South Viet Nam, other Western agencies said, specifying that 89 US-puppet positions came under fire.

On the night of May 2, the PLAF simultaneously and repeatedly struck at 77 enemy positions throughout South Viet Nam including the HQs of units with part of their strength thrown into the US invasion of Cambodia, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. On May 3, the PLAF shelled 54 enemy positions in the various parts of South Viet Nam, Western reports revealed.

The US military Command in Saigon admitted that the American base at Quang Loi *(in Binh Long province)*, 15 miles east of the Fish Hook area (Cambodia) came under heavy PLAF fire, Reuter reported on May 4, that this command post for the current aggressive operations of US troops against Cambodia "was shelled yesterday afternoon, for the third time in less than 24 hours". The same agency said that " three US helicopters were shot down and destroyed in South Viet Nam yesterday ".

On *the night of May 4*, the PLAF pounded with big guns on many US and puppet base of positions. Western sources said that at least 57 positions were hit. The targets included the US air-base in *Bien Hoa province*, a cantonment of the American Division, the Chu Lai airfield, several positions in Tam Ky provincial capital, 4 artillery sites around Hiep Duc town and 2 positions of the US marines in *Quang Nam province*. Initial reports said that 2 airstrips for jets and 4 helicopters bases, the supply section and the HQs of the US base at Chu Lai suffered heavy losses in men and war materials. The enemy helicopter base were completely paralyzed and the underground gasoline dump was set aflame and a fire raged for many hours.

New successes were recorded by the PLAF in *the Nam Bo Delta* from *the night of May 2 to 3*. The PLAF in *My Tho province* wiped out and took prisoners more than 560 enemy troops, knocked out and decimated 4 puppet regular companies and 1 section of militiamen. Besides, they destroyed 7 blockhouses, shot down 1 helicopter and seized a large quantity of weapons and other military equipment. Those of *Ben Tre province* raided a series of enemy positions and garrisons situated on provincial chief town and in various districts of province. On May 3, they depleted 3 "civil guard" companies. Those of *An Giang province* assailed simultaneously 18 enemy positions in the Tri Ton and Tinh Bien districts, including the military sub-sectors of Tri Ton and Tinh Bien, the military training centres of Chi Lang and Vinh Trung, the "civil guard" the 468th and 469th units and the commandos camp of Ba Xoai.

In an action *on May 5* about 30 km southwest of Hue city, the PLAF disabled a great number of troops of the US 101st Airborne Division, Western reports said. Late at night, PLAF gunners struck some 38 US-puppets' positions across South Viet Nam, the sources reported, listing, among the targets, a basecamp of the US 4th Infantry Division in Pleiku. The same night, saw various PLAF ground operations, among them that on a US force near Cam Lo town in *Quang Tri province* in which the enemy took 124 casualties, the overrunning of the HQs of the Que Son military sub-sector in Quang Nam, and the raid on a police station in Da Nang, same province. On the night of May 5, the PLAF shelled for the second time the US airfields in Chu Lai base and the Ky Ha military port. The artillery barrages triggered many fires and explosions. In Ky Ha port a fuel storage and a war vessel were set ablaze. In the shelling of the US supply complex at Tien Sa, north of Da Nang city on the same night, more than 200 GIs were killed or wounded and a large stock of military equipment destroyed.

The PLAF in the northern part of *Quang Tri province* from the *night of April 30 to May 6* wiped out more than 500 US and puppet troops. The liberation forces overran the operational HQs of the puppet 54th Regiment and 1 US artillery command post, shot down 7 planes, destroyed 20 tanks and armoured cars and 15 heavy guns and mortars as well as one radar station. They also sank 2 cargo ships and seized quantities of military equipment. In a half-an-hour raid on the puppet 51 Regimental HQ, and the US artillery site at Khe Don in *the small hours of May 6*, the liberation forces wiped out more than 300 enemy troops.

On the *night of May 7*, the PLAF lobbed artillery shells on 64 US and puppet bases or positions, according to Western sources. The same night, the liberation forces of *Quang Nam province* assaulted US and puppet forces in Tam Ky and Hoi An towns and in Dai Loc and Duy Xuyen districts. Earlier in the day, the PLAF in *Thua Thien province* attacked elements of the 3rd Brigade, US 101st Airborne Division some 30km southwest of Hue city. Many GIs were on the casualty list. At the same time, bases of the US "Air Cav" in Phuoc Vinh Area, *Bien Hoa province* came under fire, the same sources revealed.

The PLAF *on May 9 and 10* shelled 77 US and puppet positions across South Viet Nam, Western sources reported. On the same days, 8 US helicopters were downed or destroyed by the liberation forces, the same sources said.

Such a devastating flare up of activity by the SVNPLAF and people was purposely to mark the 80th birthday of President Ho Chi Minh (May 19).

Nothing can prevent the advance of the PLAF

exacted a toll of 50,000, including 20,000 GIs put out of commission 1,200 military vehicles including 800 tanks and armoured personnel carriers, downed or destroyed on the ground 500 aircraft, sank or set afire some 80 warships and military transports.

2. Major successes scored by the PLAF and people in setting up revolutionary power in more areas and frustrating the "pacification" program.

Parallel to the military successes, the people in different areas, with the help of the PLAF, staged widespread uprisings, punished thugs, shattered the puppet ruling apparatus and established their own control. *The movement has been give a strong impetus:*

60,000 people in *Ben Tre province* dismantled 140 "strategic hamlets" in one week; 10,000 in *Can Tho* seized power in a dozen hamlets within a single night; in ten days some 100,000 in *South Trung Bo* destroyed more than 100 hamlets, wiped out 1,000 "pacification cadres", informers and ruffians. The population in six villages of *An Giang* rose up and, coordinating their action with that of the local armed forces, encircled 25 garrisons and posts, destroyed or forced the withdrawal of 20 others, thus liberating two villages and several hamlets.

In the first days of April, the people and their armed forces *destroyed a little over half of the "strategic hamlets" so far built in SVN, which was a heavy blow at the enemy's rural "pacification program" and making it possible to thwart his "Vietnamization of the war" scheme.*

The great all-sided successes of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam in April have driven their adversary into a complete quandary. The latter's lost of a sizeable part of their troop-strength and great difficulties in youth press-ganging, has aggravated the enemy shortage of manpower.

April was also a month with very high rate of desertion and desintegration among the Saigon army. For example, three battalions of the 21st Division did not comply with marching orders. The Combined Security Guard of Ben Tre five times refused to set out for "mopping-up" operations. In the first four days of the month the 11th Regiment of the 7th Division registered 500 defections. Two battalions of the Ranger Regiment in An Giang province ignored combat orders. Over 400 montagnard soldiers along with their battalion commander refused to come to the rescue of the besieged garrison at Dak Seang.

At present the US command is throwing puppet troops into the outperimeters of theatres of operations against Liberation forces. The Saigon army is thus being spread thin, which conceivably will lover its fighting spirit.

In the flush of their successes the people of South Viet Nam and their armed forces are stepping up their activities in very favourable conditions and with the firm resolve to deal stronger blows at the enemy's "Vietnamization" plan to drag on the war, with a view to *winning complete victory on the South Vietnamese battle-field.*

Saigon Students Persevere in their Action

SINCE April 20, the Students' struggle has been resolutely kept up against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique and against the massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia by the Lon Nol—Sirik Matak group. Most remarkable was the action taken by them on three days running April 29 and 30, and May 1, — when they converged toward their rallying points, the College of Agriculture — Forestry—Animal husbandry, the Faculty of law and the Gia Long College for girls then fought their way to the Cambodian Embassy to reinforce one hundred of their mates who had been occupying it since April 24.

Groups of demonstrators also marched on Thieu's "Independence Palace" and the puppet National Assembly building. Thousands of policemen called in by the puppet administration hurriedly took up positions in the streets in an attempt to repress them. Some of the arteries in Saigon were crowded with policemen and barbed wire and the air was filled with the smell of tear-gas used by the police. Many clashes between students and field policemen occurred throughout April 30 : 500 University and High School students came to blows with nearly 1,000 policemen as they were trying to jump over the fence into the Cambodian Embassy and join their friends inside. Many bonzes were seen among the demonstrators.

On the evening of May 1, 3,000 students commemorated International Labour Day at the Minh Mang Students' Hotel with the slogan : "Workers and students rise up and fight for a peace and better living condition." The ceremony ended with torch parade staged by the students and workers who put up a bitter resistance against policemen sent against them all along Minh Mang Street.

On the afternoon of May 2, defying all police efforts and terror, 7,000 students bearing mourning bands set up an altar and staged a requiem mass for the Vietnamese nationals slain by the Lon Nol—Sirik Matak reactionary clique in Cambodia... After that, they paraded in protest against the collusion between the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak and Thieu-Ky-Khiem groups to persecute and slaughter Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. They carried their altar to the Quach Thi Trang Square and chanted "Down with the Lon Nol—Sirik Matak group of assassins!", "Down with the Thieu - Ky - Khiem fascists and their barbarous repression of students" "End the war, Restore Peace." Police thugs were ordered by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration to mercilessly crack down upon the demonstrators. Tear-gas grenades were hurled at them and a violet chemical product was poured on them from 8 pumps. What was most inhuman was the refusal on orders from the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime of hospitals to give medical care to a number of students who, hurt by tear-gas and the chemical product, had fainted or had got burns on their skin. Supported by Saigon popular masses, the demonstrators fought back many waves of assault mounted by the police and continued their parade and leaflet distributing action. On the same afternoon of May 2, more than 1,000 students of Petrus Ky School mounted many counterthrusts and succeeded in breaking through the police cordon around the building; they then took to the Republic Boulevard, occupied a position in that thoroughfare and organized a parade with many slogans protesting against Thieu-Ky-Khiem's participation in the armed aggression against Cambodia and demanding an end to the war, restoration of peace and cessation of all repression against students. They had the support of tens of thousands of the local population.

— On May 5, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem took a most provocative decision in closing down all schools including the French-run school in Saigon.

— On May 9, hundreds of Saigon students gathered in front of the puppet Ministry of Education and staged a sit-in against the closing of schools and terroristic measures taken by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration. On the same day a similar action was performed by them before the puppet "National Assembly" building. They sang peace songs and displayed streamers urging the Thieu - Ky - Khiem regime to recognize the Students General Association, to respect the student's freedom of assembly, to set free 11 students (among whom Huynh Tan Mam) still illegally detained by the puppet authorities and to remove all policemen from around Saigon's University, Colleges and High School.

The struggle of the Saigon students, elicited a warm response from students of Can Tho, Vy Thanh, Ben Tre, Long Xuyen, Hue, etc... who kept close contact with their Saigon mates arrested by Thieu — Ky — Khiem administration. At the 2,000 strong student's Congress in Hue on April 24, a number of representatives who had been present at the former congress of Saigon students told their friends of the brutalities committed by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem agents against students and of the unbending opposition of the Saigon students to the puppet regime.

More recently a state of emergency was decreed by the Thieu—Ky—Khiem administration in Saigon and the 10/68 law was ordered to be more strictly enfaced. These are proofs of their utter passivity and embarrassment. The movement of students in Saigon has been gaining in strength and scope with every passing day. No brutality, no perfidious manœuvre can put out the flame of hatred now burning in their hearts and in those of students all over South Viet Nam.

In our liberated areas

Our songs will never be drowned out
Carve-wood by **Nguyen Thai Binh**

Production steadily goes up in Central Nam Bo

IN 1969, the US-puppets used bombs, shells and chemical poisons, and conducted raids against the countryside under their "accelerated pacification program" in the central part of Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper).

In the first 10 months of the year, nearly 4,300 peasants in My Tho province were killed, wounded, arrested or manhandled, 22,250 houses burned down, and thousands of domestic animals killed or taken away. In Ben Tre province, the enemy killed 4,593 draught animals and over 15,000 hogs. They reduced to ashes at one time more than 200 hectares of ripening paddy in Hau My Bac (Cai Be district, My Tho province) and Binh Hanh Trung (Cao Lanh district, Kien Phong province). High dosed chemical poisons were sprayed along big canals or on ricefields in Ben Tre, My Tho, Kien Phong, An Giang provinces... damaging tens of thousands of hectares of orchards, ricefields and other crops.

In the fierce war situation, the peasants in South Viet Nam have fully realized the meaning of these words of President Ho Chi Minh : "Fields are battlefields, ploughshares and hoes are weapons, peasants are fighters". They have devised many methods of production suitable to the practical conditions of the battlefield.

Under the leadership of the NFL and the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the provincial administration has sent cadres down to the localities to help the peasants in mastering farming technique and improving farm tools.

In the spirit of solidarity and mutual aid, the peasants have stimulated one another to fight drought and work all the cultivated areas. In some periods, due to the enemy's fierce day shelling and strafing the peasants have to do farm work at night with the resolve to tide over all difficulties and bring in an abundant Autumn harvest.

As a result, in the past year (1969), all the provinces in Central Nam Bo fulfilled or surpassed the cultivated area quota and the general paddy output increased by 21% compared with 1968, and the people's living standard has thus been maintained despite the war.

South Viet Nam Harsh Penitentiary Regime Strongly Denounced

We publish below the truth about US-puppet much advertised "humanitarianism" vis à vis SVN patriots detained in their prisons. (Ed.)

On US orders, the Saigon puppet authorities have built a prison network provided with the most sophisticated means of questioning and torture.

South Vietnamese living under the puppet regime can be arrested at any moment under the flimsiest charge or with the simple reason that they do not appropriately grease the US puppets' palms. The suspects are immediately put to the rack which precedes any questioning (questioning is always accompanied by very atrocious torture).

Over the past fifteen years, there have been millions of people imprisoned; some of them have been able to escape from jail such as Miss **Nguyen Thi Hong**, a native of Gia Dinh province who was apprehended 12 times. Here is what she said:

"We don't know how many kinds of prisons there exist in South Viet Nam, but we can classify them as follows: official prisons, secret prisons, "night" prisons, "civic action" prisons and prisons of the US-Viet Nam combined forces.

The "official prisons" are entrusted by the "Ministry of the Interior" to the care of the Directorate General of police.

The secret prisons are usually housed in private residences, and army barracks.

The other jails are disguised under such names as "refugees' camps" and "re-education centres". They do not exist in any other countries in the world. Trained by their US bosses, the puppet authorities have tried to camouflage these penitentiaries under different names. The five biggest prisons are Chi Hoa, Poulo Condore, Phu Quoc, Thu Duc and Tan Hiep. There have usually from 6,000 to 10,000 people detained in each of them. Such towns and cities as Gia Dinh, Ben Tre, My Tho, Quy Nhon, Da Nang and Hue have jails of their own, each of them accommodating from 3,000 to 4,000 prisoners.

The head of each province has the right to appoint jailers for the provincial prison in which from 4 to 6,000 people are held on his orders.

Each district, village or town quarter runs its own prison in which up to 3,000 people are incarcerated per week or month.

The "civic action" groups run 8 jails in Saigon and 6 in Da Nang, detaining each from 2 to 300 people. Besides, the provinces, towns and districts have set up either "examination centres" or "re-education centres" which are in fact mobile prisons.

The "night" jails are reserved for the suspects who, in this case, are detained from 6. p. m. to 8 a.m. the next morning. The detainees have either their legs pilloried or their hands shackled or the soles of their feet branded...

All Viet Nam prisons are submitted to the same regime: the detainees are packed to overflowing in narrow wards where they are given each a 0.5 sq. m. area; the stink which prevails and the bad food sap their material and spiritual strength.

The prisoners' rations are never sufficient. Rice is always sprinkled with dirt and the food consists mainly of salt and stale pickled fish; the prisoners eat plain rice most of the time or are left hungry or thirsty for three or four days. When taken ill, they receive no medicines or treatment; diseases are rife.

Water is in short supply. For instance, in the summer in Saigon (lasting until August) at each corner of the hexagonal prison building there is a 5 cubic-metre-tank enough to supply to each of the 900—1,200 prisoners of 16 wards about 5 litres of water, for drinking, cooking or washing.

The prisoners are not allowed to read newspapers, write or receive letters, or be visited by parents and friends. All trespassers are subject to torture which can entail the loss of their lives. The usual penalty is to starve the offenders to death. At the Poulo Condore penal settlement there exist two concrete buildings of 30 cells each; in each low cell roofed with corrugated iron the prisoners can not stretch their legs when they lie down after having been put through the third degree or stripped of their clothes, these cells also serve as bath room and lavatory for the prisoners.

The detainees have to make things for the jailers.

They are submitted to all kinds of torture and punishment:

— The prisoners' hands receive 50 strokes of a heavy wooden bludgeon.

— He lies flat on the belly and is beaten with a big sharp edged cudgel which causes an intolerable pain to his feet, knees and heart because of an afflux of blood.

— He is hung upside down with a metallic wire tied to his toes and is punched by four ruffians.

— Hands tied behind his back, he is beaten with a rubber cudgel on the chest.

— He is immersed neck-deep in a tank of water which, violently pounded by a cloth wrapped stick, raises waves which affect his internal organs (heart, liver, kidney...).

— Pins are driven into the prisoners' fingertips under the nails.

— His knee-caps, heels and ankle-bones are nailed.

— His fingers are nailed onto the table, soaked with fuel and set on fire.

— The prisoner is laid on a bench, tied by the wrists and soaked with salted or dirty water poured into his mouth and nose, which sometimes provokes instant death.

— He is electrified by a 12 volt current; a female prisoner may have her teats and genitals connected to a live wire;

— The prisoner has his muscles and genitals pinched by a hot pair of pliers.

— He stands naked on a stool, has to look at a light 500w bulb; on his head is a 300w bulb and at 0.40 metre from his neck another 500w bulb.

— He is tied to a chair under a tank whose water falls on his head drop by drop which makes him feel like receiving heavy hammer strokes.

— The prisoner has to pluck his chin hairs with two fingers (all kinds of knife or razor are forbidden in prison). This amuses the jailers. If he pluck two hairs at one time he gets 5 blows. The ruffians also bruise the heads of the juveniles who accompany their mothers in prison.

The torture used is chosen by American advisors and their lackeys. The means of torture, turned out by special workshops, are now familiar to the jailers: the bludgeons are branded "made in USA"; the word "life" is written at one end and "death" at another, after being asked which end he prefers the prisoner is put through the third degree.

The supervision and repression network built by the quislings is South Viet Nam is composed of: in Saigon, the city police superintendence, the "civic action" (secret police), the "army security agency" (second bureau) much abhorred by the population: the CIA, the US special forces secret agency.

In each province there is a national police force and a special police organization together with CIA agencies and other special organs, whose routine work is to apprehend and jail people. Any people can be arrested after being asked the following questions:

"What unit do you belong to?"

"Where do you hide your weapons?"

"Where is your unit stationed? does it stock weapons?"

The torturers then concoct a statement to their liking and compel the arrested people to sign below. This document serves as bill of indictment. As a rule, the detainees are denied the right of appeal.

Then the torture begins as described above.

Any prisoner released receives a temporary residence card issued by the special police. From then on, every week or every month he must report to the police station of his quarter of residence and to the central examination organ. He must give details of his activities: what he has done or said. Each time he goes to the police station, he must bring changes of clothes with him in case he is arrested again. In his trips he is always "dogged" by the police.

The people nickname the US puppets twentieth century man eaters of and the area under their sway "hell on earth!"

This is not only an isolate case of US atrocities: US-bomb destroying houses of Vietnamese civilians.

Again Waiting for Uncle's Spring Missive

Again I am waiting for Uncle's Spring missive
From where the Restored Sword Lake is and epic chapters
Of our history have been written,
With the same eagerness as in my childhood days
When I sat up on the watchnight
To hear the auspicious pops of firecrackers.
This is the first Tet bereaved of Uncle's laughter.
On triumphal nights, young mates of mine wipe furtive tears,
Their hearts constantly turned Northwards like a compass needle.
Each minute of silence is one of holiness.
In my home village of yore they imposed an early curfew.
Their civil guards ripped open my father's belly for
Refusing to show them our underground hide-outs.
Oh, the friendly prickly hedges and thorny jungle tracks,
Oh, the cylindrical rice cake mother gave me, saying, swallowing her sobs.
"Don't forget this is Uncle's land".

The last thought of those who fell went to him.
How I love the sea of grass in the Dong Thap boatman's song,
The row of trees glowing red like evening fire of the dying year.
On the night of concerted risings we drew His picture on a wall of the jail
He seemed to be living, looking at us with His sharp eyes
Mothers of family came and kowtowed,
Children flocked in and danced.
He smiled and read a few verses.
We made a flag from silk
And staged a procession to bring His effigy and spring to the little hamlet.
Coming back are innumerable mornings in Duc Hoa fragrant with the smell of pomelo flowers,
His call to arms resounding in Vam Co downstream,
Pirogues which made the dewy curtain quiver,
Dashing toward dawn and hearts full of longing.

Uncle dear, I hear apricot blossoms bloom on the branches
And yonder Spring walk with gingerly steps
Into the new year, the eightieth after your birth,
My heart still heavy with the greatest ever grief,
In this night march illumined by the flaring flames of the forest,
My heart in which is graven the image of He
Who brings us Spring
Even when He is no longer writing for newspapers, tending flowers and mapping out strategies...

Still I am waiting for Uncle's Spring poem
Though aware that his supreme message was his last.
Uncle dear, pomelos are snowily flowering in Duc Hoa.
This spring the fighting will extend further,
Pirogues will again dart toward hearts full of longing
Toward dawn, brimful with tidings of battles won.

Spring 1970

GIANG NAM

Uncle HO, tending a "Cay Vu Sua" (Chryothyllum cainito) offered by South Vietnamese in His garden

Pomelos and Coconuts

How swift the spring swallow's wings are
And what glad tidings it brings!
And here are the vernal presents from the North,
Bright golden pomelos and coconuts green with freshness.
They have been through rain and shine,
Watered by Him mornings, gazed upon by Him afternoons,
On the branches He used to bend down delicately,
Each of them tended by His loving hand.

Night and day the South is all ears
For your confidences, o coconuts.
The fields, the rivers, the mountains, the villages all are dying to hear your reminiscences on Uncle, o pomelos.
The seasons' cycle pursued its course,
And night after night, He sat up meditating.
Whiffs of jasmine scent filtered through His blinds
And rounded pebbles crunched under His worn sandals.
Was there any night when He slept with His mind at peace,
The mind of one who cared for millions?
Tell us, oh pomelos, tell us, oh coconuts,
Was there any moment His mind was free from the care of state affairs.

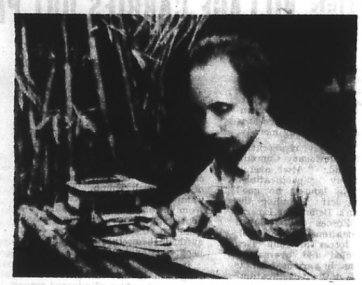
The sweet milk, the nectarean juice
Seem to be full of Uncle's feelings.
How deep our grief, how keen our regret
At seeing the fruits fragrant with His affection and love for the land
Last May, taking His mind off the nation's business now and then
He still tended the trees with loving care.
Today they are bearing fruit, o Uncle!
But where is He who grew them and made them bloom?
No, no, He is always there with us,
As the coconut milk will always be sweet, as the pomelo juice will always be nectarean.
To morrow the seeds He sowed
Will grow into trees laden with fruit all over the South.

The guns are booming again this spring
In the land of the coconut, in the home of the pomelo,
Where the fighting will flare up fiercer.

January 1970

DANH LIEN

My pledge to UNCLE HO



President Ho Chi Minh at work at the resistance base during the Resistance against the French colonialists (the 1st war of Resistance)

FOR the past fifteen years the people of my native region have been forbidden by the enemy to display Uncle Ho's portraits in their homes. In our own home my mother had to hide one under the roof. Each year when his birthday came, we waited until enemy patrols had gone away before taking his picture down and looking at it, our hearts filled with love and respect. How moved I felt on such occasions, and how eagerly I looked forward to the day when our country would be reunified, and Uncle Ho would visit the South!

I was arrested by the enemy in late 1967. They beat me up and savagely tortured me, but failed to extract the least information from me. Finally they fell on me like a pack of wild beasts and cut off one of my legs.

IN 1968, I received the great privilege of visiting the North. My trip to the great rear area of our people's fighting front was full of moving memories, but what happened on the afternoon of March 2, 1969 remains most deeply engraved in my mind.

The car stopped in front of the Presidential Place. I was shown into a room with a table of unvarnished wood against the wall. On the table was a tea-pot and a few cups and around it were three chairs. Uncle Ky the President's private Secretary told me to sit down and asked me, "Do you know what you are coming here for?"

"I don't," I stammered.

He told me that I was to meet Uncle Ho, who would come in a few minutes. My heart went pit-a-pat. I kept standing up with the help of my crutches and sitting down again... I strained my ears and listened for Uncle Ho's footsteps. My wristwatch ticked away but it seemed to me as though time had stopped. I kept looking at it and felt dizzy with emotion. Suddenly I heard the clink of a little doorbell and Uncle Ho stepped in. He was wearing a faded khaki uniform. I dropped my crutches, which fell to the floor with a thud, and lurched up to Him and fell in His lap. Unable to contain my emotion I stammered, "Uncle, allow me to kiss you."

Uncle Ho bent and stroked my hair. His hand was as gentle as my mother's used to be when I was a child.

I buried my head in His chest...

He made me sit down on a chair and asked, "Why are you crying, child?"

Swallowing my tears, I said, "Uncle, how could I have hoped..."

Again tears trickled down my cheeks.

After waiting a while for me to recover myself, He inquired about my family, friends, and the people of my native district, Duy Xuyen.

He was aware of what had happened to my family. He asked, "Two of your brothers have come up north. Have you met them?" Then He wanted to know who was to take care of my parents, who had stayed home.

He asked me questions about Sister Ut Tich: Was she able to send her children to school? Had her eldest daughter joined the guerillas? Then He inquired about Sister Tuyet, Sister Quyen (Troi's wife), Sister Ly... and the living conditions of people in Quang Nam, my native province. I told Him:

"Uncle, in spite of everything, sweeps by American and puppet troops, raids by B.52s, the permanent presence in the sky of enemy spotter planes — in spite of everything the people in my native place go on tilling the land and growing crops according to the regular cultivation schedule. Last year, even my old parents were able to present our troops with two basket-loads of dried sweet potato."

Uncle Ho warmly praised me. I was so happy I had to bend my head and play with the buttons of my jacket to try to contain my emotion.

Uncle Ho looked at my wooden leg and asked, "Do you sleep well at night, child?"

"Very well, Uncle," I said.

He looked me in the eyes and asked, "Do you feel sad?"

I told Him: "Even if I had lost all my limbs in fighting I would not feel sad, for I still have my sight undamaged to look at You. My meeting with You today makes me happy for a whole lifetime!"

I glanced up and saw two tears rolling down His face... Now, remembering this, I still feel angry with myself for having so afflicted Him.

He asked Uncle Ky and myself to stay for dinner. He told Uncle Ky to change chairs with me so that I could sit next to Him. I was truly overwhelmed. Merely looking at his portrait had filled me with happiness, and now I was actually sitting by his side! He filled my bowl with rice and served me a big piece of chicken. He said, "Young people should eat plenty so they could work hard!"

When His bowl was empty, He put some more rice in it and asked me, "Is this enough for me?" I eagerly said, "Please, Uncle, fill it to the brim." He smiled and complied. My dearest wish was that he could eat plenty and live long.

Then He helped me to more food and said, "Let's compete, child."

At home, I used to eat only two bowlfuls of rice. Yet, that day, I took double that amount of food. While eating I kept my eyes glued on Him. His beard was beautifully white, His complexion rosy and healthy, his eyes shining beneath His high forehead... I looked at the rubber sandals on His feet. I had heard many stories about those legendary sandals. Now I could see them with my own eyes: they looked worn out.

It was now time for Him to receive a Cuban delegation. Uncle Ho changed into a new khaki suit. Back in the room He asked me, "How do I look?" — "Fine, Uncle," I answered. He laughed and there was a gleam of gentle humour in His eyes. Uncle Ky and I too laughed happily. Uncle Ho took me down the steps and kissed me on the forehead. Noticing a tear on the leg of my trousers covering the wooden leg, He said, "This wooden leg isn't too well made!" He turned to Uncle Ky: "Where are you going to send her to have an artificial limb fitted?" When told that our Hungarian friends had promised to do the job, Uncle Ho looked very pleased. Bidding me farewell He said, "Take plenty of exercise so that you can return soon to your combat post!"

I stood there a long time, following Him with my eyes.

IT was very cold in winter, in Hungary. From my hospital bed, through the window, I watched snow falling outside. The newly-fitted artificial limb caused a painful swelling. Only in summer would I be able to begin my exercises. But I kept repeating to myself Uncle Ho's recommendations: "Take plenty of exercise so that you can soon return to your combat post!" In the days when He was living in the jungle of Viet Bac, Uncle Ho used to rise at five even in the coldest winter days, to do jerks and keep fit. Remembering this was for me a great source of encouragement.

On His 79th birthday, May 19, 1969, I wrote Him this pledge, "I will take regular exercise so that the day I return home I shall be able to come to visit you walking normally." (Later a Hungarian journalist told me that Uncle Ho had looked very pleased when learning that I was now able to walk without the help of crutches, and had asked him to relay to me his congratulations). But when I returned to the country, our beloved Uncle Ho was no more.

Today I am walking along the path I had taken when I came to visit Uncle Ho a year ago. It seems to me as though I were seeing Him, sitting beside the table of unvarnished wood, with His snow-white beard, His high forehead, His gentle shining eyes... From the bottom of my heart, I pledge to Him: "Uncle, so long as a single American aggressor remains in the South, I will continue to hold my gun firm!"

HUYNH THI KIEN

Valiant Fighter of [redacted] Quang Nam province.

(recorded by HA DUONG)

BINH TIEN VILLAGE CARRIES OUT PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S TEACHINGS

I visited Binh Tien village on an evening of late Spring. Evening was coming and on the village path contingents of bicycles, carts loaded with sugar-canes were returning home during women peasants were chatting and laughing merrily.

My escort, Miss Quy, representing the village Revolutionary Committee, proudly said: "After over a year of enemy "pacification" thought no big houses, no good gardens were left standing the success was ours. Before the Liberation Armed Forces wiped out 2 US-puppet battalions at Doc Soi, the regional forces of Binh Tien village encircled and overran 4 enemy positions in various hamlets as for the heads of the "pacification" teams and groups, 7 of them lost their lives right on our sugar-cane fields.

In the starred sky, a flight of enemy helicopters whirred past this village from Chu Lai landed on Chau O township. These clusters of enemy artillery opened fire at the far seashore.

In the hamlets of Binh Tien, lights were on inside narrow huts, in the grain drying yards, and the regular noise of the grinding of sugar cane by buffalo-drawn carts was heard.

From the huts beside the little lamp, resounded the voices of pupils of the literary classes, learning their lessons. Sometimes, I heard very clearly the sentences: "Our mountain, rivers and people will always be after defeating the US aggressors, we will build our country ten times more beautiful."

The liaison boy showed me to the home of Uncle Phong who had 6 boys in the army. He had just been elected Chairman of the front Committee and the People's Revolutionary Committee of the village.

When seeing me, he said:

"The conference of cadres to review the implementation of President Ho Chi Minh's last instructions has just closed this very afternoon. It was attended not only by cadres, but also by a number of activists invited as representatives of the 7000 inhabitants of the village."

Asked about the achievements, he took out his hand-book, and after thinking a moment, he said:

1)— Since October 1969, after discussion President Ho Chi Minh's Testament, more than 1,200 youths have joined the army, the remainder instead have been jealously carrying out the "5 voluntary tasks of the Youth Union." The village Committee has received letters from various units where Binh Tien youths have been working saying that 500 young people have distinguished themselves and many have been outstanding cadres.

2)— Though Binh Tien village has long been in the contested areas, illiteracy has been eliminated among the people. There are now hundreds of children attending general education classes of various levels.

3)— After the Autumn rice harvest, we have contributed to the Revolution funds worth hundreds of tons of paddy.

4)— On the occasion of the traditional Tet Festival, the people succeeded in persuading two platoons of puppet troops to come home, thereby getting more rifles to arm the militia.

5)— Most remarkable is that Binh Tien forced the enemy to withdraw from and wiped out 4 US-puppet positions in the village thus helping the Liberation Armed Forces to knocked out battalions at Doc Soi base recently.

As a result, the Central Committee of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Republic Government of South Viet Nam awarded to the Binh Tien militia a "Brass Wall Orders" late in 1969.

Next morning, Miss Quy and uncle Phong took me to visit the liberated hamlets. From hamlet 5 to hamlet 7 we stopped in front of the leveled enemy positions. But their remained concrete fortifications and underground trenches with only one door to those arrested with a host of jail instruments

President HO CHI MINH at Cao Bac Lang campaign

torture, cudgels and knuckle-dusters, bodies of serpents left inside the dug-outs. Binh Tien village has worked out plans to open a chamber of horrors to show the cruelty of the US aggressors to future generations.

We moved along the trenches, crossed the sugar-cane fields and lush green paddy fields and often met groups of militiamen with rifles slung across their shoulderd aptly cutting sugar-canes.

It was evening when I went back to Uncle Phong's from Chi Trung hamlet. At the cross-road, a woman-guerilla with field-glasses and a gun her hands jumped down a defoliated plantain and showed Miss Quy and Uncle Phong a piece of paper foll of signas.

After carefully reading it twice, Uncle Phong asserted that the enemy may concentrate its forces to action of the Working people on the forthcoming May Day".

Miss Quy agreed that these two things might happen and determinedly said: "We are ready, and resolved to fight the US aggressors, defend our sugar-canes, as an achievement to mark the 80th anniversary of the birth of President Ho Chi Minh. This was the single purpose of all the militiamen of Binn Tien at the recent political discussions.

Leaving me with a woman-guerilla Miss Quy and Uncle Phong went off by different ways. A quarter of an hour late, looking at Chau O township from the T river bank, I saw again all those who had cut or carried sugar-canes, and a number of pupils and teachers all over the fields or in the hamlets grasping firm their guns, calmly marching under the starred sky. I was happy to be among their ranks on a night of Spring, in valiant Binh Tien village.

PHUONG LAN

EDITORIAL

TURN FOR EVER TO HIM...

(continued from page 1)

whole people are prepared to devote their hearts and souls, lives and property."

Viet Nam's freedom and independence was the greatest dream of His life, as it has been the set purpose of our people. His words have instilled inexhaustible strength into our fighters and fired them forward to fresh successes. His exhortations have been the inspiration behind the many epic chapters of our national history, for which South Viet Nam and the whole country have been responsible.

He is the embodiment of national unity and of the North-South blood kinship, **"Our country is one, our nation is indivisible,"** *he frequently said,* **"The North and the South belong to the same family, they are made of the same flesh, and they are absolutely inseparable."** *Unity has been first and foremost on the minds of the South Vietnamese as well as of all the Vietnamese.* **"There is no other choice."** *He taught us,* **"than fight to the bitter end, until the US aggressors withdraw, until the puppet army and administration collapses, if we want to completely liberate the South, and reunite the North and the South under the same roof."**

All through our more than twenty years' anti-US resistance, South Viet Nam was His constant care. And South Viet Nam never ceased turning to Him for enlightenment, more strength, more stamina, and more confidence.

Uncle's longing for the South was one for home,

The South's yearning for Uncle, a child's for his sire.

He was like the sun for this sunflower, that South Viet Nam was, and the latter's image was graven in His heart, wrung by the agonies of partition and the trials of war, which spoiled the taste of His food and broke the soundness of His sleep. The South Vietnamese people's bitterest regret is not to have achieved reunification in His lifetime, not to be able any longer to welcome Him to their martyr land and pin on His breast the highest honour of the country. His last instructions, they will treasure in their hearts as a source of confidence, strength and fortitude and they will live up to their solemn pledge taken at His funeral: keep up the fight until complete victory.

Accordingly, the waves of uprisings and offensives, started at Tet 1968, have been spreading, with greater impetus and intensity, inflicting more stinging setbacks upon the US imperialists and their agents. But by nature intractable and tricky, these have been actively implementing their "Vietnamization" plan, prolonging the aggressive war in South Viet Nam, intensifying the "special war" in Laos, perpetrating an aggression against Cambodia. More deeds of the deepest dye have been added to their long list of atrocities against the three peoples of Indochina, which only confirms the veracity of Uncle Ho's parting message: **"Our anti-US resistance may drag on. More losses in human lives and in property may have to be suffered by our people whose resolve to fight to a finish against the US aggression should not in the least be weakened."**

In observing in the most relevant way His 80th birthday, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people will follow the example of Uncle Ho, strive hard to attain the standards He has set in behaviour and way of life, in self-improvement and dedication to the common cause, to deserve His love and solicitude and the dignity He has conferred on us as "Brave Citadel of the Fatherland," as combatants under the banner of the great President Ho Chi Minh. Carried forward by our successes, we pledge ourselves to hold high the standard of national independence, to fight on until His supreme wishes are fulfilled.

His prediction that **"No matter how great our people's difficulties and hardships, their final victory is a foregone conclusion. US imperialism will inevitably have to pull out. Our country will certainly be reunified and the North and the South brough together under the same roof,"** *will, we are firmly convinced, come true, for it is simply in the nature of things and of history.*

Uncle Ho's memory will never die, His Will has become that of the entire nation and His image imprinted for even on our land and on the minds of our people.

SOUTH VIET NAM

CAMBODIA

Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces and People Win Big Victories

THE Information Office of the National United Front of Kampuchea has reported that, during over a month of heroic fighting, the National Liberation Armed Forces and the people of Cambodia killed, wounded or captured more than 10,000 enemy troops.

In terms of units, they completely wiped out 4 battalions and heavily trounced 11 others. In addition they seized more than 3,000 firearms, nearly 100 tons of ammunition and hundreds of military vehicles and a large quantity of other military equipment.

Besides, thousands of officials, policemen, officers, noncoms and soldiers of the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique changed side to join the people's armed forces.

The Cambodian Liberation Forces and people besieged or forced the enemy to abandon hundreds of military sub-sectors and positions and paralyzed the enemy traffic on such life lines as Highways 1, 13, 3 and 22, liberating many areas linking the mountain areas to the plains of Cambodia.

In the liberated areas the enemy power was completely destroyed and replaced by the Local National United Front and Administration rallying the majority of the people of all walks of life. Guerilla units were rapidly built in many villages and hamlets, offices and plantations, and are very active in training and defending their native villages.

The Information Office also reported the victories of the Cambodian Liberation Forces on the night of May 2:

In the Pa Nam military sub-sector, in spite of enemy reinforcements, the Liberation Forces overran the sector and all the enemy forces there surrendered in the first minutes of the attack.

At the Neak Luong position close to Pa Nam, the Khmer Liberation Forces virtually wiped out the enemy forces there and overran the position, captured more than 500 enemy troops, killed or wounded many others, and seized a large stock of equipment and ammunition.

The following morning, the Liberation Forces overran the enemy position at Phong Tra Pec, wiping out nearly 450 enemy troops and seizing 50 others, and capturing over 500 firearms.

Meanwhile, all the enemy forces at Muong Sau surrendered to the Liberation Forces, bringing with them nearly 200 weapons.

More uprisings against Lon Nol–Sirik Matak

ACCORDING to the FUNK information Bureau, about 100 people in Takeo province demonstrated, on April 29, against reactionary Lon Nol—Sirik Matak administration. Lon Nol's agents shot at the demonstrators, killing 4 and injuring 8. After the incident, over 800 people made for Salarok to demand that the local authorities punish the murderers.

The following day, another 800 people, including many armymen, paraded against the Phnom Penh ruling clique.

In Preyveng province, Cambodian People's Liberation Armed Forces intercepted on April 14, a group from the Karoka garrison district Peam Chor, and put them to flight after burning two enemy boats. Two days later, patriotic forces sank a ship and set another afire between Omxano and Neak Luong.

Also by mid-April, the population of Snoul district, Kratié Province, rose up, punished Lon Nol's thugs, and established local committees of the FUNK; stimulated by these successes, hundreds of young people enlisted in the patriotic forces. Meanwhile, uprisings took place in O Raing and Bach Chom districts, Mondulkiri province; the district capitals were surrounded and the local authorities of the Lon Nol—Sirik Matak clique were forced to withdraw on April 24. The deputy district chief of O Raing crossed over to the people's side. Administrative and FUNK Committees are being set up.

KHMER PATRIOTIC FORCES' WIDESPREAD SUCCESSES

ON the night of May 5, the Khmer patriotic armed forces attacked areas held by Lon Nol troops in *Kratie*, FUNK Information Service reported.

According to the first news, they controlled the whole city, wiping out hundreds of enemy troops, releasing after persuasion work 400 others, seizing a large quantity of war means among them a reconnaissance plane.

On the same night, the Khmer Armed Forces and people violently attacked the CP of the 6th Military Area of Lon Nol at Kol Koen Tung (Kratie). The whole enemy garrison with the Colonel in command and many other officers were forced into surrender.

After the fighting, the population of Kratie enthusiastically welcomed the liberators and set up with them people's power and militia units. Order was restored and life returned rapidly to normal.

Such positions in the north of Kratie as Sambaur, Sandal and Srechu were also occupied by the patriotic forces. The people local's forces destroyed bridges on National Road No 13, disrupting enemy traffic between Stung Treng and Ratanakiri. The enemy in the city of Ratanakiri met with many logistical difficulties, especially in food and fuel.

In *Kompong Cham*, within 8 days (May 1 to 8), the Khmer Armed Forces and people fought 34 battles in Memot area, putting out of action 1,400 enemy troops including 1,350 GIs, destroying 198 military vehicles including 170 M.41 tanks and M.113 amphibious carriers, 15 cannons and heavy mortars, shooting down 25 planes, seizing many weapons and a large quantity of war material. On May 2, two US-Saigon motorized convoys supported by planes, operating in the south-east and north of Memot, were engaged in violent fighting by patriotic forces which put out of action 200 US-Saigon troops including 160 Americans, destroyed 20 military vehicles including 10 tanks, 9 106, 7mm and 81mm mortars and 2 machine-guns during 2 surprise attacks 3km in the South East of Memot.

In *Svay Rieng* province, on April 29 and 30, the Khmer patriotic forces fought 2 battles in the north and the south of Chipou town, killing 270 Saigon troops with a major, destroying 8 military vehicles, capturing weapons and war material.

In *Mondulkiri*, on May 5, 1 company of the Khmer Royal police, stationed at Palaut rebelled against the reactionary Lon Nol government and went over to the people's side with 64 weapons. It was warmly welcomed by the population.

LAOS

ATTOPEU LIBERATED

IN April 28, the Lao Patriotic Armed Forces attacked on the enemy 11th battalion HQs at Sevan, in *Savanakhet province* and knocked out 184 adverse troops, KPL reported.

In the same period the Mok Lom and five positions in *Udomsay province* were assaulted and 118 enemy casualties were listed and Phu Sang Nam completely liberated.

On the Sam Thong-Long Cheng battlefields, *Xieng Khoang province*, 1,000 enemy troops including Vang Pao were wiped out or wounded by the Lao Patriotic Forces.

The Lao Patriotic Forces in *Attopeu province* inflicted, on the night of April 29, and the following day, nearly 600 casualties on US-paid rightist including a Lieutenant-Colonel, a Major and others officers, completely liberating the Attopeu town and its surrounding areas, KPL announced.

The Agency also said the 43rd battalion was heavely trounced, two battalion HQs and the military sector HQs were overrun.

On the night of April 28, the Lao Patriotic Forces launched a surprise attack on the 4th battalion HQs (3km Northwest of Attopeu town), two artillery sites at Phousaphong and Phoulangkeo (respectively Northeast and Northwest of the town), and an enemy position at Pheng Sekaman. After four hours fighting, the Lao Patriots disabled nearly 200 enemy, captured over 100 others, and completely controlled the battlefield. They also seized or destroyed many weapons including big guns and other war supplies.

The following day, the Lao Patriotic Forces raided the Attopeu airfield, the military sub-sector HQs and other remaining positions around the town, wiping out some 150 enemy troops including a Lieutenant-Colonel, Deputy-Commander of the subsector, and took prisoner nearly 100 others. The remnants fled in panic.

"Lam Vong" dance played by an artist of Pathet Lao Artistic Ensemble

Greetings of the fraternal countrie's leaders

HARDLY had the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples ended when the leaders of socialist and nationalist countries welcomed with messages, letters or statements, its brilliant success and expressed their unstinted support to and solidarity with the anti-US struggle for national salvation of the Vietnamese — Khmer — Lao peoples.

Symbol of the solidarity of the Vietnamese, Khmer, Lao peoples

In its statement, the GOVERNMENT OF THE DPR OF KOREA said:

"The recent Summit Conference has greatly contributed to the stepping up of the common struggle of the Indochinese Peoples against the US and brings it to a new height.

The DPR of Korea Government and people as a whole, strongly denounce the heinous massacres and crimes perpetrated by the US imperialists and their lackeys the Indochinese peoples and whole-heartedly back the April 25, 1970 Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference".

In a message, FIDEL CASTRO RUZ, Prime Minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Government, and OSVALDO DORTICOS TORRADO, President of the Cuban Republic wrote:

"This Conference was a great historic event and doubtlessly will further push up the heroic and glorious struggle of the brother peoples of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam against the US imperialists' cruel aggression.

Over these last few years, this naked aggression has been considerably intensified. However, in their gallant struggle, the Indochinese people will enlist further support and solidarity from all the progressive, anti-imperialist and revolutionary forces in the world."

In his message, WILLI STOPH, President of the Council of Ministers of the GDR, said:

"Your important conference was held at a moment when the US imperialists were pursuing their aggression in South Viet Nam. In these last few days they have take new steps to spread it to the whole of Indochina. This has greatly aggravated the threat to the security and peace in South East Asia.

The government and people of the GDR again condemn most severely the aggressive acts and savage crimes committed by the US imperialists and their stooges against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia."

In its statement, the GOVERNMENT OF THE PR OF POLAND stressed:

"The government of the People's Republic of Poland staunchly supports the Joint Declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, calling on the three peoples to weld their solidarity and put up a stiff resistance to the US imperialists and their myrmidons, for their national rights and the fundamental principles of the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements.

The Polish government and people strongly condemn the pursuing and extension by the US of its armed intervention in the Indochinese countries and demand that the US withdraw the GIs and satellite troops from Cambodia, Viet Nam and Laos as provided for in the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements."

After hailing the success of the Conference and strongly scoring the US imperialists' recent manoeuvres detrimental to the Indochinese peoples, the telegram sent by PAL LOSONCZI, President of the Council of Presidency of the People's Republic of Hungary pointed out:

"We declare full support to the heroic struggle waged by the Indochinese peoples against US imperialism and its satellites. We are firmly convinced that, with its anti-imperialist character, the common struggle put up by the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples, with the help of the fraternal socialist countries and other friendly nation as well as the peace forces in the world, will be successful".

In his message, LUMOBIR STRONGAL, Prime Minister of the Czeck Socialist Republic, wrote:

"The Conference voices the iron will of the Indochinese countries to foil the new plot of the US imperialists who are stepping up their armed intervention and extending it all over Indochina.

The monolithic solidarity bloc of the Indochinese peoples against imperialism realized with the support and assistance of socialist countries and all progressive mankind, is a sure guarantee of new successes of the anti-Imperialist struggle and the re-establishment of the peace in that region".

In its statement, the Socialist Republic of Rumania emphasized:

"The government of the Socialist Republic of Rumania has learned with gratification of the convening of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples... The Rumanian Government and people express their anxiety over the danger of extension of the Indochinese conflict and state once more that the US should put an end to its aggression in Viet Nam, withdraw its troops and those of their allies from there; we deem it necessary to check the acts of aggression against the peoples in that part of the globe".

HOUARI BOUMEDIENNE, President of the Revolutionary Council, President of the Council of Ministers of the Democratic and People's Republic of Algeria, said in his message:

"Hailing this good initiative, we are well aware of the vital importance of your solidarity and concerted efforts to strengthen your struggle against the forces of aggression for the achievement of your peoples' legitimate aspirations to freedom and independence in peace. We are convinced that your Conference is a positive landmark in your effort toward this end".

Australian demonstrators displaying watchwords: "US troops out of Viet Nam"

RTS THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES

Universal support for Indochinese peoples

THE successful Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference has been heartily welcomed by peoples and governments all over the world.

Leaders of such countries as USSR, PR of China, PDR of Korea, Cuba, PR of Albania, PR of Hungaria, SR of Rumania, SR of Czechoslovakia... have sent messages, issued declarations and delivered speeches acclaiming the Conference's success, and emphasizing its significance and great importance.

The message of N.A. Kosygin, President of the USSR Council of Minister reads: "I take this opportunity to wish the participants in the Conference splendid successes in the interest of their own peoples. I am convinced that your gathering will help further consolidate the united anti imperialist front of the Indochinese peoples.

This battlefront will certainly play an important role in foiling the imperialists' aggressive plans."

Speaking at a banquet given in honour of the delegates to the Conference, Premier Chou En-lai, of the State Council of the PR of China stressed: "We firmly believe that the success of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, with the participation of the summit leaders of the four parties in the three Indochinese countries, will certainly further strengthen the militant solidarity of the three peoples and take the struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, to a new stage".

Leaders of other countries, on behalf of their peoples and governments, warmly hailed the Conference's outcome and reaffirmed to the Indochinese Heads of State their staunch support to the just and certainly victorious struggle of the Indochinese peoples against the US aggressors and their henchmen.

In the meantime, world opinion, in the first ten days of May, has also strongly condemned US aggressive actions against Cambodia.

Peoples in the five continents attached Nixon's policy of aggression war provocation which is widening the aggressive war in the Indochinese peninsula.

On May Day this year, the toiling people in the world raised their voices against Nixon's criminal war in Indochina.

The governments of many countries such as: the USSR, PR of China, PDR of Korea, PR of Hungaria, SR of Rumania; many international organizations: the World Peace Council, the World Democratic Women Federation, the World Workers Federation, the International Journalists' Organization, the Asia and Africa solidarity Organization etc... and other national organizations of many countries put out protests against the Nixon administration's aggressive acts against Cambodia and Indochina as a whole.

Closely following the events in Indochina and voicing timely support to the Indochinese peoples' struggle, the peoples of the world have angrily reacted to the Nixon administration's frenzied acts against the three countries in Indochina.

Rallies and demonstrations were held in India, Pakistan, Japan, Honghong, Philippines, UAR, Tanzania, Mali... castigating the US aggressors and baching the Indochinese peoples efforts to stop Nixon's aggression.

In Europe, Nixon's war escalation throughout Indochina has given rise to a campaign of protest starting from the beginning of May in France, Great Britain, Italy, Sweden, Finland... In Toronto and other Canadian towns, Canadians joined in protest against the US aggressive war in Indochina.

In particular, American progressives, mostly American students, have vigorously flayed Nixon's provocative and aggressive policy. Many Americans personalities have come out against the Nixon policy of aggression in Cambodia. From coast to coast, in more than 400 US universities and in churches, factories, farms... a high wave of protest has risen against the US aggressive war in Cambodia and Indochina.

Such widespread opposition at home and abroad to Nixon's playing with fire in Indochina is likely to worsen his present predicament.

South Viet Nam NFL and PRG welcome formation of Cambodia's National Union Royal Government

THE SVN PRG hailed the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia as the only legal and legitimate Government of this country.

M. Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee and of the Advisory Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and M. Huynh Tan Phat, President of the latter, sent the following message of greeting to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian Head of State and Chairman of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK):

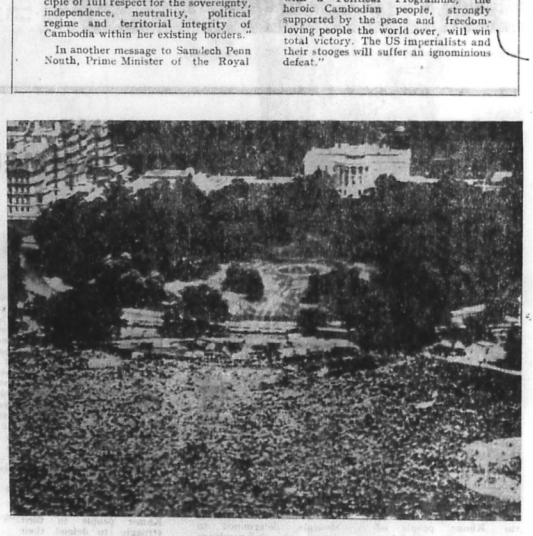
"We would like to assure Samdech that, as a close neighbour of the Khmer people, the South Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the South Viet Nam Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, fully supporting the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese People's Summit Conference, will step up their sacred war of Resistance, strengthen further their militant solidarity with the heroic Khmer people and do everything they can to give effective support to their just cause. We will consistently strengthen our good neighbour relations with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the principle of full respect for the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, political regime and territorial integrity of Cambodia within her existing borders."

In another message to Samdech Penn Nouth, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, President Huynh Tan Phat said:

"We have the honour to inform Samdech of the recognition by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia as the only legal and legitimate Government of Cambodia.

On this occasion, on behalf of the people, the National Front for Liberation, and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and in our own names, we convey to Samdech and through Samdech to the FUNK, the Royal Government of National Union and the Cambodian people our warmest greetings and our full support."

The message made clear that the South Vietnamese people "will fight shoulder with the brotherly Khmer people against the US aggressors and their flunkeys till final victory"; "We firmly believe that in the light of the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese People's Summit Conference, under the clearsighted and determined leadership of the FUNK and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and with a Political Programme, the heroic Cambodian people, strongly supported by the peace and freedom-loving people the world over, will win total victory. The US imperialists and their stooges will suffer an ignominious defeat."



200,000 American Youths hold a protest meeting against Nixon's aggressive policy in Cambodia.

BELOVED PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH WILL LIVE FOR EVER IN OUR HEARTS !

I also convey my fraternal greetings to the comrades, friends, youths and children in the world.

(Will of President Ho Chi Minh)

President HO CHI MINH (1st, left) and Representatives [redacted] at the 5th Congress of the International (1924)

Saigon Students in Japan mourning to Uncle HO's passing away

Friendship – fruits – trees

When the delegations of the NFL and RSVN led by President Nguyen Huu Tho was visiting the Soviet Union. Sochi Soviet offered them fruits from a pomelo tree grafted by President HO CHI MINH during His visit to this city in 1957

HISTORIC TURNING POINT FOR KHMER PEOPLE

THE birth of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK) with Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk as Chairman, together with the establishment of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia—the only legal and legitimate representative of the Khmer people—constitutes a turning point of important historic significance. The Political Program is a clarion call for the Khmer people to unite under the banner of the FUNK and to fight resolutely to defeat the US imperialist aggressors and the Lon Nol—Sirik Matak clique their stooges.

The Political Program of the FUNK and the Proclamation of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia reflect the deep aspirations of the Khmer people of various strata, and define the immediate tasks and longterm objectives of the great patriotic struggle, namely, 'Unite the entire people to fight against all the manœuvres and acts of aggression by the American imperialists and overthrow the dictatorship of their lackeys headed by Lon Nol — Sirik Matak. After complete victory, to build an independent, peaceful, neutral, democratic and prosperous Cambodia.'

The FUNK's line of national salvation and construction proceeds from a correct analysis of the situation in Cambodia, and reflects the earnest aspirations of the Khmer people and their determination to defend their national independence and their lofty ideals and traditions.

Responding to the appeal made by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in his March 23, 1970 Proclamation, the Khmer people have stood up to wage political, armed and other forms of struggle, determined to defend the independence and neutrality of Cambodia, and are driving the US aggressors and the Lon Nol—Sirik Matak clique into utter isolation.

The FUNK's political program notably says: 'The FUNK pursues a policy of friendship, militant solidarity and cooperation with Laos and Viet Nam according to the principle that the Liberation and the defence of each country are the affair of her own people and that the three peoples pledge to do their best to support one another according to the desire of the interested country on the basis of mutual respect.

This statement is a vivid demonstration of the rock-like militant solidarity between the Indochinese peoples.

The South Viet Nam people, the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam are elated at the brilliant victories recorded by the Khmer people in their struggle to defend their sacred national rights.

The sentiments, thoughts and acts of the South Vietnamese people regarding this historic event of the Khmer people have found a deep expression the message of greeting sent by the NFL and the RSVN PRG to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk on May 6, saying notably: 'Fully supporting the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, they will step up their sacred war of resistance, strengthen further their militant solidarity with the heroic Khmer people and do everything they can to give effective support to the just cause of their friendly country.'

The South Vietnamese people firmly believe that with their tradition of indomitable struggle, in the light of the Political Program, under the resolute and valiant leadership of the FUNK and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, with the full support of the Vietnamese and Lao peoples and justice-loving people in the world, the Khmer people will bring their just struggle to complete victory.

Dear Readers,

On May 10, 1970, South Viet Nam in struggle was unable to come out for lack of newsprint.

Please accept our sincere apologies.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

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